

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05

IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /069 W

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O R 150916Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4732

INFO AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 28606

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA, TH

SUBJECT: LAO INCURSION INTO THAILAND

REF: (A) BANGKOK 28510, (141105Z OCT 76 (B) UDORN 6281

SUMMARY: THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE CONFIRMS THAT "PATHET LAO" COMPANY-SIZED FORCE ATTACKED A VILLAGE IN LOEI PROVINCE OCTOBER 14, AS REPORTED IN REF A. INCIDENT IS ON A SMALL-SCALE, BUT NARC MAY USE IT AS EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST POSTURE IT HAS ADPOTED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONFIRMATION OF ATTACK REPORTED REF A, HEADQUARTERS, BORDER PATROL POLICE (BPP) HAS ADVISED THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 1210 HOURS, OCTOBER 14, A PLATOON OR COMPANY SIZED FORCE OF "PATHET LAO" (PL) ATTACKED A VILLAGE SECURITY BASE AT QV207361, NA HAO SUB-DISTRICT, LOEI PROVINCE, THAILAND. THE BASE IS DEFENDED BY THREE BPP AND 30 VILLAGE DEFENSE CORPSMEN. AS OF LATE OCTOBER 14, THE BASE WAS STILL RECEIVING FIRE, AND THE BPP DISPATCHED A RELIEF ELEMENT.

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2. WE DO NOT KNOW IF SIMONS FILED HIS STORY OR IF IT WAS

SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED. IF IT DOES APPEAR, HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MORE WILL BE READ INTO IT THAN IS WARRANTED, I.E. THAT THAILAND IS UNDER OPEN ATTACK FROM HER COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS BECAUSE OF THE STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST STAND TAKEN BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, THIS BASE IS WITHIN THREE KILOMETERS OF AN OPEN LAND BORDER, AND IS IN AN AREA OF KNOWN INFILTRATION/EXFILTRATION IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND (CPT). PREVIOUS REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OF PL MOVEMENT ACROSS THE BORDER IN SUPPORT OF THE CPT IN THIS AREA, AND MANY REPORTS OF "PL" RECEIVED FROM THAI SOURCES HAVE LATER PROVED TO BE ERRONEOUS IN IDENTIFICATION, I.E., ACTUALLY CPT FORCES, ETC. UNLESS SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION INDICATES OTHERWISE, THIS PARTICULAR ATTACK, EVEN IF PL ARE INVOLVED, SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM THE KIND OF ACTIVITY THAT HAS OCCURRED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

3. AS STATED IN REF A, WE CAN EXPECT NARC TO USE SUCH INCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY IF FOREIGN TROOPS ARE KILLED OR CAPTURED, TO JUSTIFY FURTHER THE STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST POSITION IT HAS TAKEN. WE MIGHT ALSO EXPECT THE PRESS, UNDER GOVERNMENT SOLICITATION, TO GIVE MORE SPACE TO THE COMMUNIST MILITARY THREAT THAN IT DID PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF SELF-CENSORSHIP.
WHITEHOUSE

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